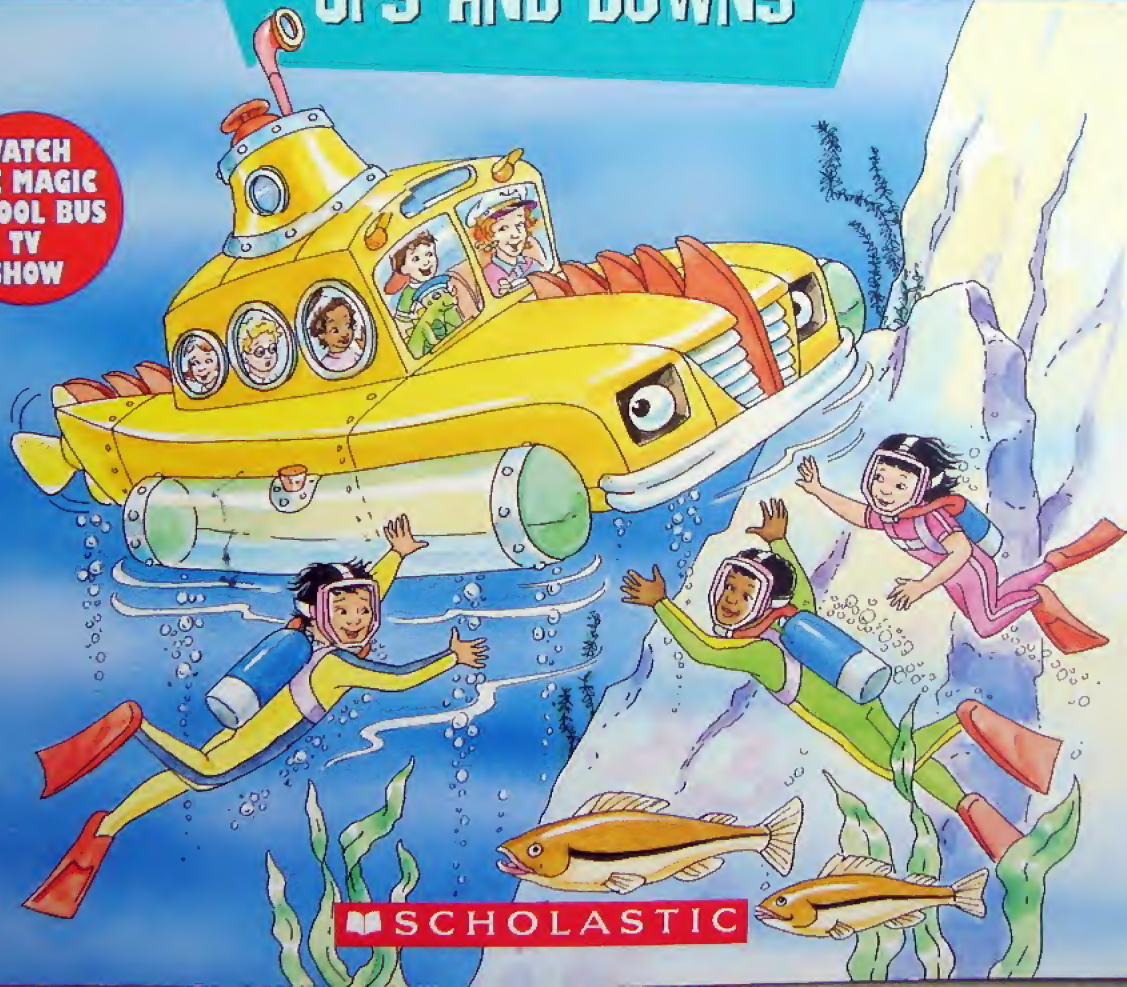


The Magic School Bus®



UPS AND DOWNS

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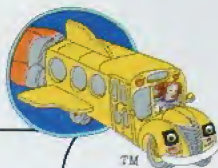


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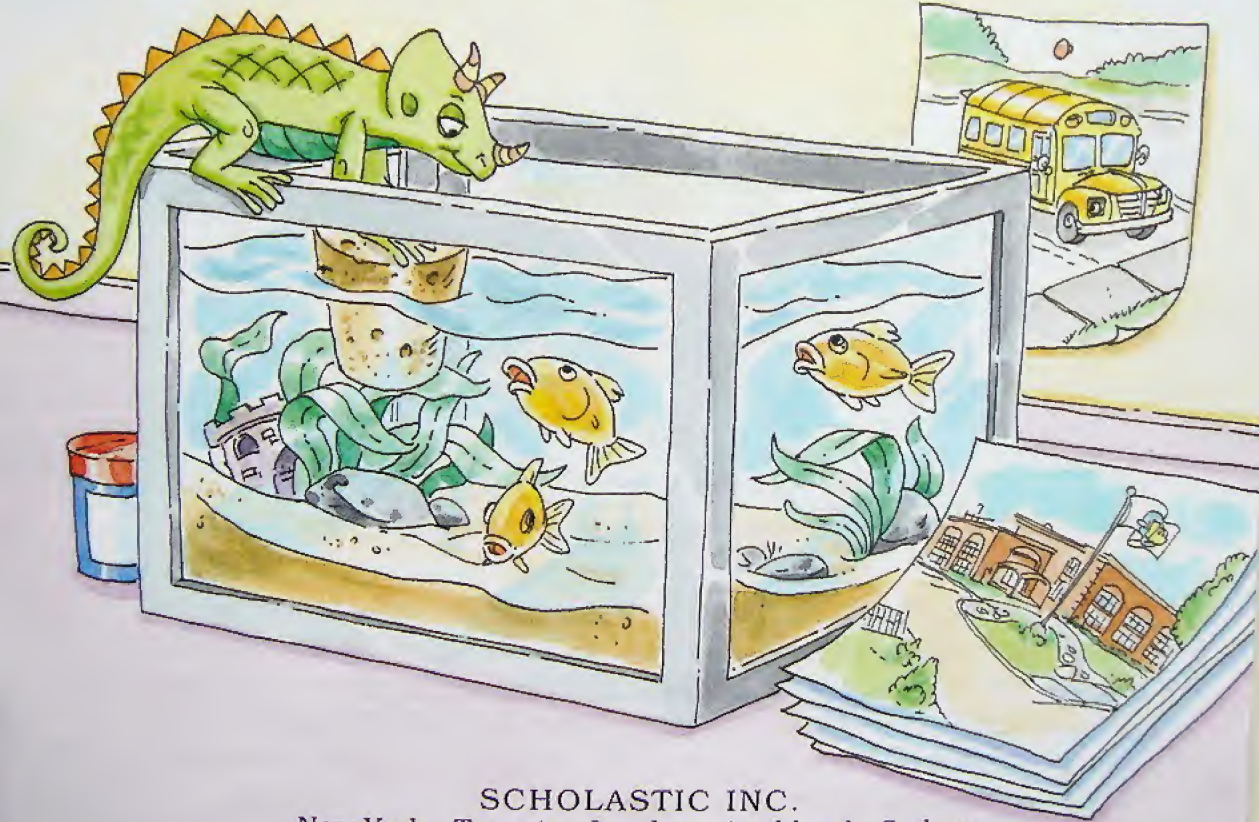
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The Magic School Bus®



UPS AND DOWNS

A Book About Floating and Sinking



SCHOLASTIC INC.

New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney
Mexico City New Delhi Hong Kong Buenos Aires



When Ms. Frizzle is your teacher, *anything* can happen. Even on a Saturday, when there is no school!

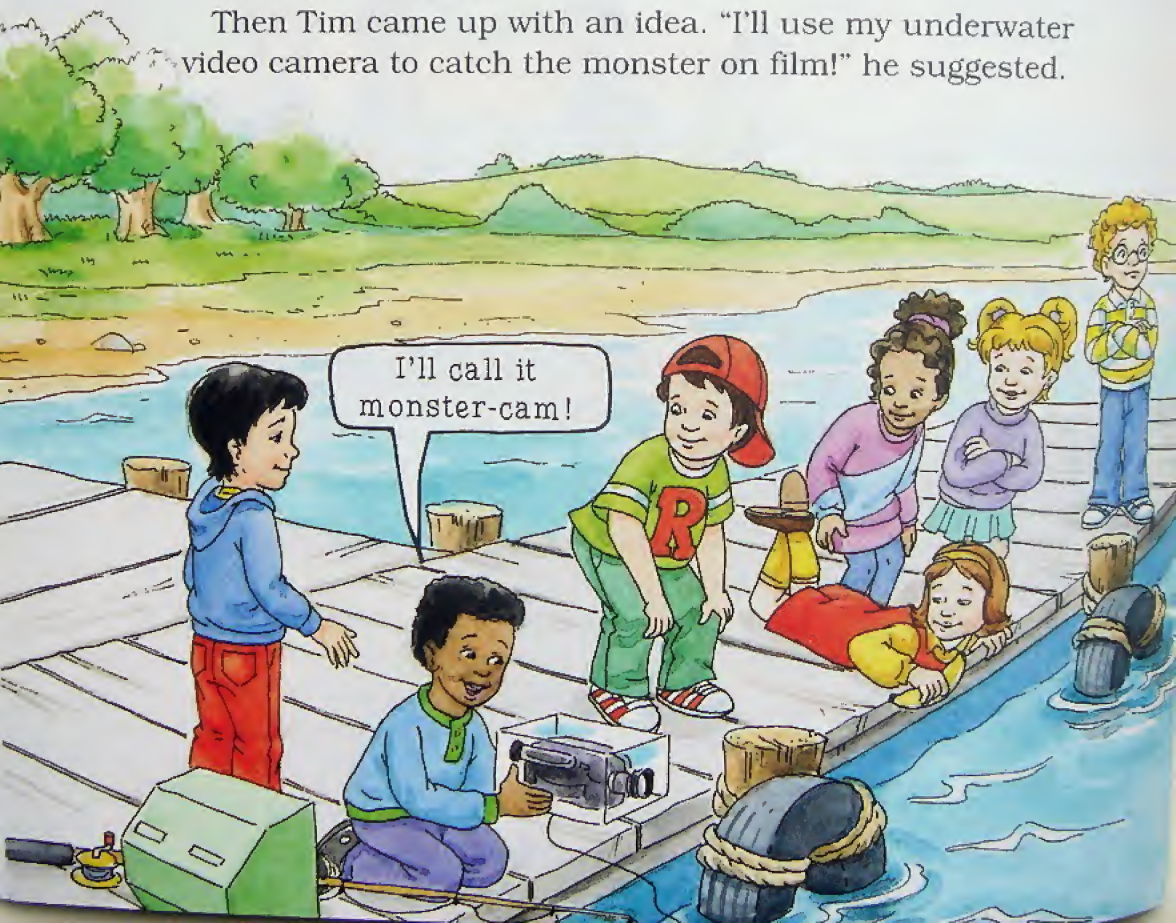
Last Saturday, we were all sitting in our houses watching *In Your Face*. *In Your Face* is this really cool talk show that everyone in our class watches. Suddenly, the host of the show, Gerri Poveri, announced that a monster was living in Walker Lake.

A monster? We couldn't believe our ears! We turned off our sets and rushed to the lake to check it out.

When we got to the lake, we noticed that two things were missing. The first was Wanda. That was strange. She's usually the first person to jump into action. But now she was nowhere to be found.

The second thing was the monster. Was Gerri Poveri right? Was a monster *really* down there? We had to figure out a way to find out.

Then Tim came up with an idea. "I'll use my underwater video camera to catch the monster on film!" he suggested.





Tim put his monster-cam container into the water. But instead of sinking to the bottom, it floated on top of the water!

Then Phoebe came up with an idea. She thought the monster might be hungry. So she held a banana over the top of the lake.

"If I were a monster, it would take more than a banana to get *me* to the surface," Ralphie told Phoebe.

Phoebe had to admit that Ralphie had a point. "If the monster won't come up for a banana, I'll send the banana down to the monster." She threw the banana into the lake.

Splash! But just like Tim's video camera, the banana bobbed on top of the water, too.

We had to figure out some way to get to the bottom of this. "If we want to see that monster, we'll have to find a way to turn those floaters into sinkers," Keesha said.

Suddenly Wanda came running onto the dock.

"Where have you been?" we asked her. But Wanda was too excited to answer us.

"Did you see the monster yet?" she asked. She dumped the gear out of her backpack: swim fins, face mask, and snorkel.

What was Wanda up to?

"I'm going to dive for it," Wanda announced.

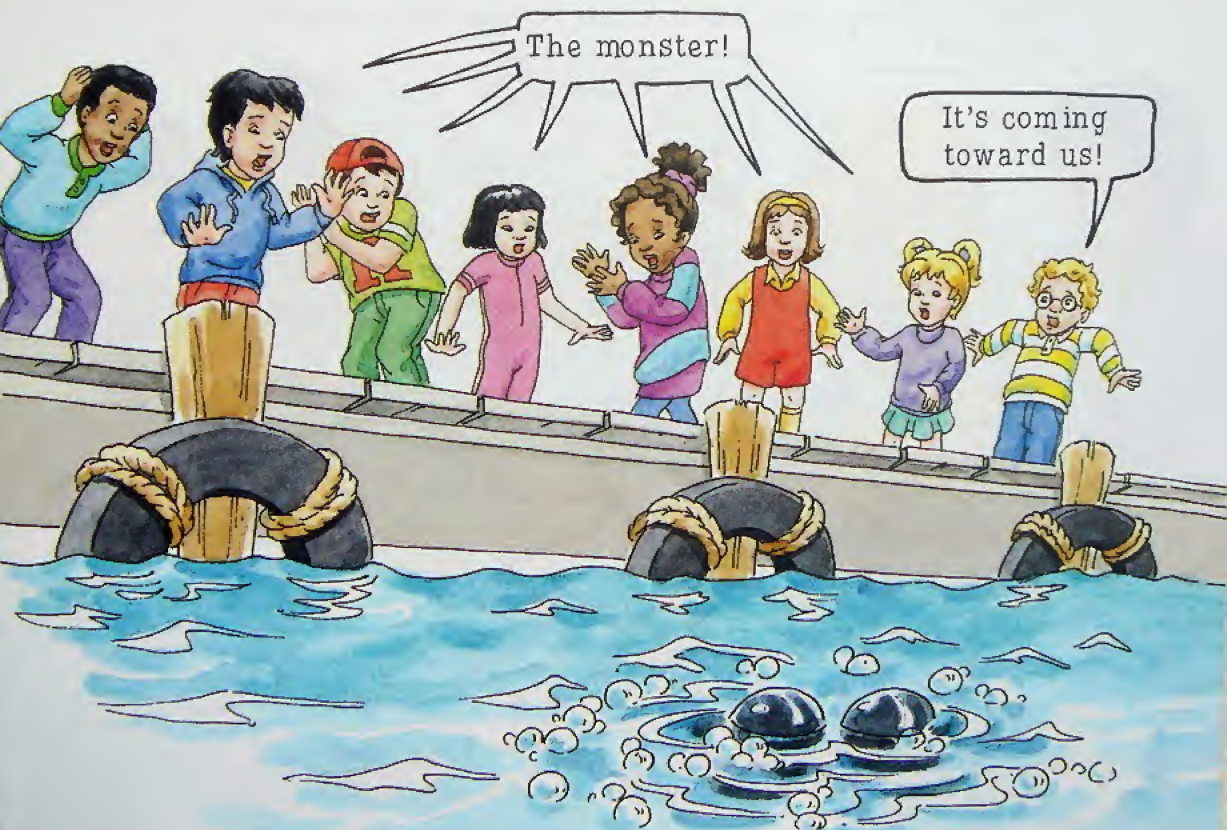


Phoebe didn't think Wanda's plan was such a good idea. "What would Ms. Frizzle say?" she asked.

Wanda shook her head. "It's the weekend, Phoebe. No school. No Ms. Frizzle."

Just then the water in the middle of the lake started bubbling like crazy. And the bubbles were heading straight toward the dock!

Was the monster finally coming up to the top?



The next thing we knew, the monster was right in front of the dock. It rose out of the water, took off its face mask and mouthpiece, and...

It wasn't the monster. It was Ms. Frizzle!

"Good morning, class," the Friz said brightly. "Nothing like a dip in the deep."

What is she doing here?

I'm afraid to find out.



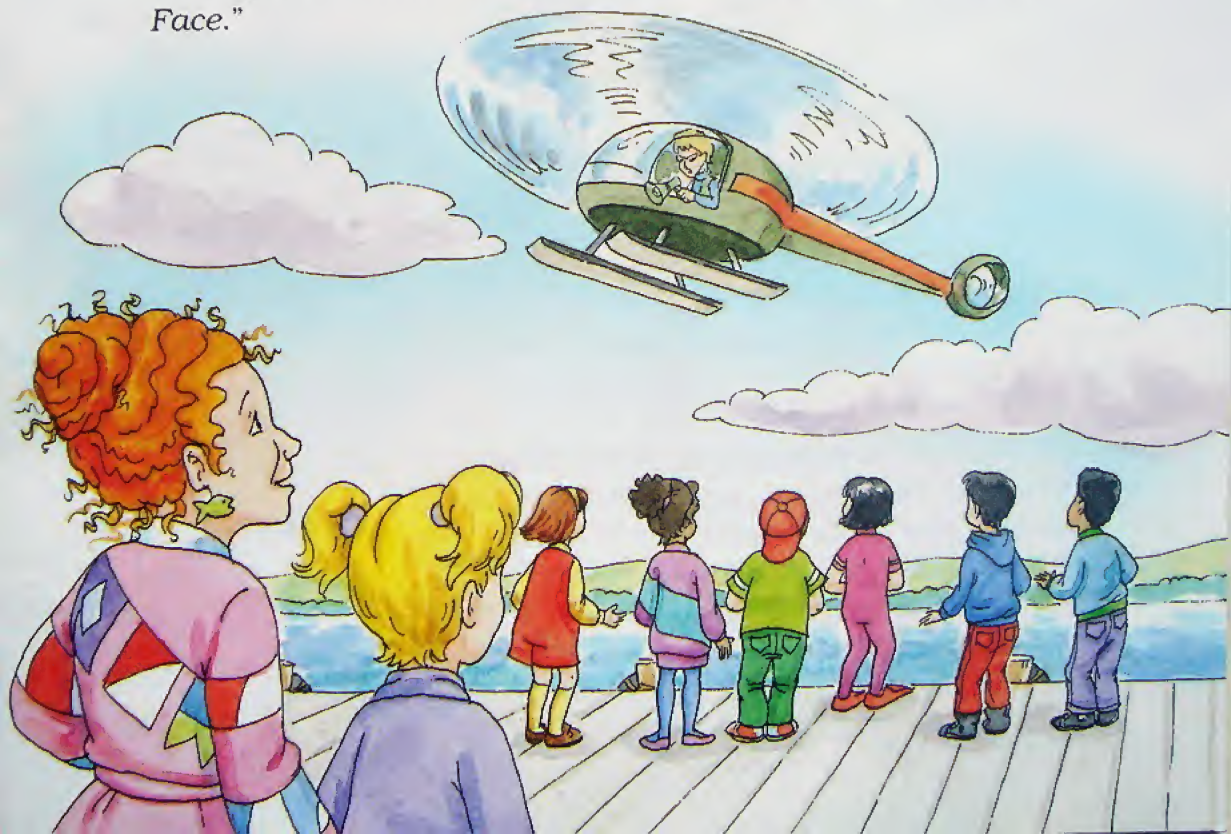
"Are you looking for the monster, too?" Wanda asked.

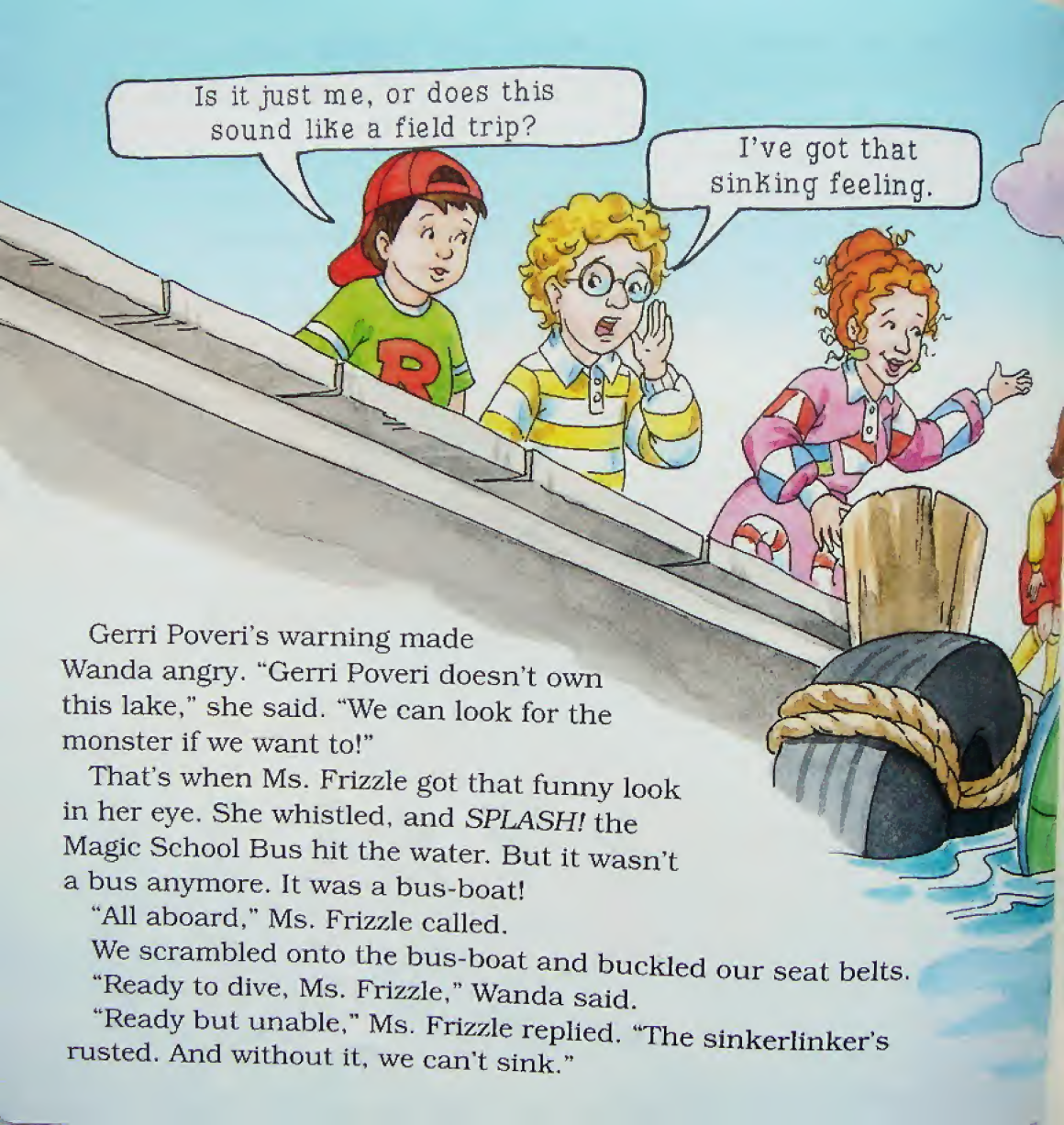
"If you don't look, you'll never see. And what you don't see can be very hard to find," Ms. Frizzle replied.

We weren't sure exactly what that meant. But we knew that with Ms. Frizzle around, we were going to find out!

Just then we heard a loud whirring sound. The *In Your Face* helicopter was overhead.

"Stay out of the water," Gerri Poveri's voice boomed out. "For updates on the monster of Walker Lake, watch *In Your Face*."





Is it just me, or does this sound like a field trip?

I've got that sinking feeling.

Gerri Poveri's warning made Wanda angry. "Gerri Poveri doesn't own this lake," she said. "We can look for the monster if we want to!"

That's when Ms. Frizzle got that funny look in her eye. She whistled, and *SPLASH!* the Magic School Bus hit the water. But it wasn't a bus anymore. It was a bus-boat!

"All aboard," Ms. Frizzle called.

We scrambled onto the bus-boat and buckled our seat belts.

"Ready to dive, Ms. Frizzle," Wanda said.

"Ready but unable," Ms. Frizzle replied. "The sinkerlinker's rusted. And without it, we can't sink."



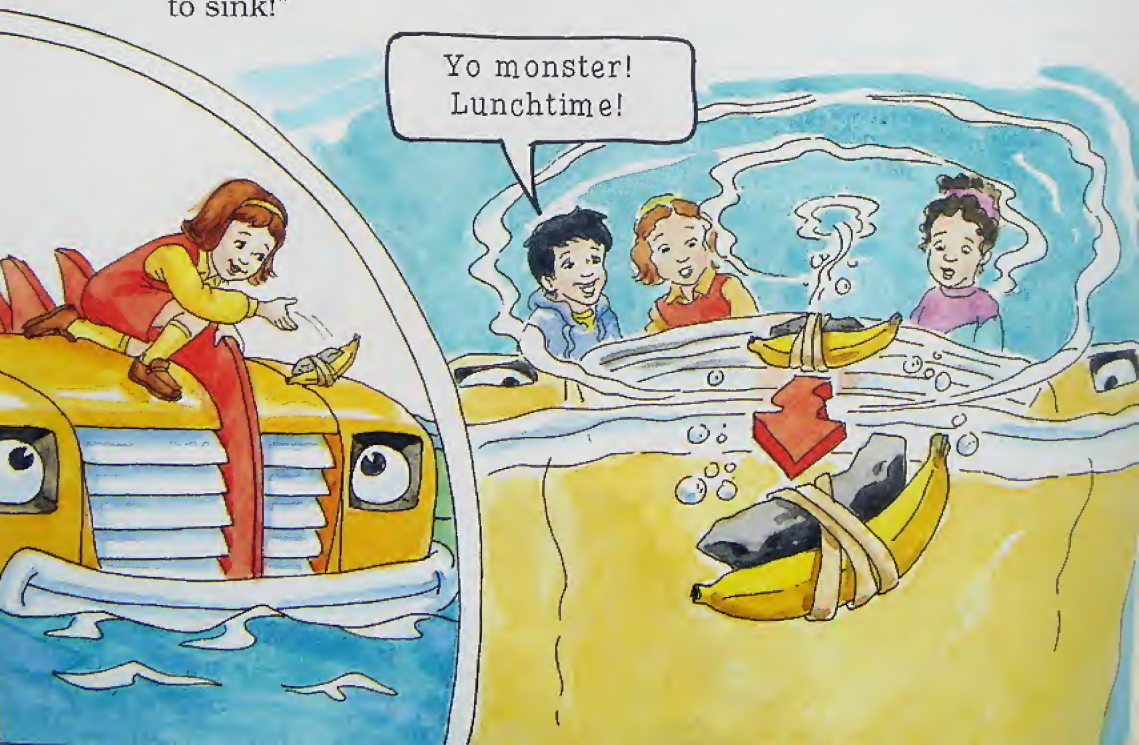
We floated on the water, trying to figure out how to get to the bottom of the lake.

Then Phoebe came up with another idea. She picked up a banana in one hand. In her other hand she held a rock. "My banana is lighter than this rock. If I add the rock to the banana, what will a banana-rock do?" she asked us.

We had no idea. She tied the two together and tossed them into the lake. The banana-rock sank!

"Good one, Phoebe," Keesha cheered. "The extra weight of the rock is making the banana sink."

"That's it!" Wanda said excitedly. "We need extra weight to sink!"





Don't let your
energy sink!

All aboard for the
last bus going down!

Keep up the
good work!

We knew we had to make the bus sink — just like the banana-rock. We decided that sand would add the extra weight. So, we all got to work filling barrels with sand. Then we strapped the barrels to the bus-boat. Phew! It was hard work.

"This one should do it!" Wanda said as she and Arnold rolled a barrel onto the boat. We had added enough weight! The bus-boat started to sink. We jumped aboard and went below deck.

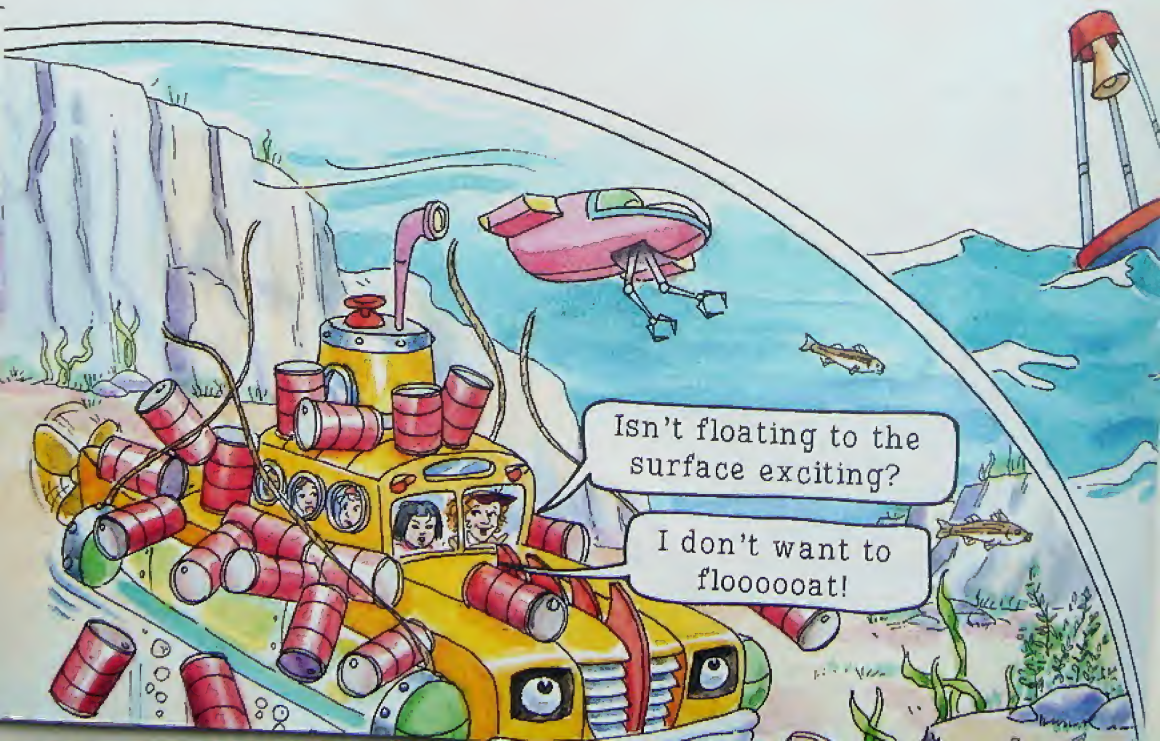
Finally, we sank to the bottom of the lake. We could see lots of fish. We could see lots of weeds. But what we didn't see was the jet-powered diving sled whizzing above us. Zoom! Suddenly, the barrels fell off the bus-boat.


"We're losing our extra weight!" Tim shouted.

"We're rising to the surface!" Phoebe added.

Ms. Frizzle smiled. "Right you are. Can you feel the water pushing us up, up, up? It's the water's push that's making us float!"

It was a little too exciting. All of a sudden, the boat shot upward like a cannon. We were out of control!





We're sunk if we
can't sink.

The bus-boat shot out of the lake and flew into the air.
Then, *plop!* We landed back in the water.

Whew! We were safe.

"Water can be such pushy stuff," Ms. Frizzle said happily.

"But we've still got to find that monster!" Wanda said.

Phoebe looked around. "Now how am I going to feed the monster?" she asked. She tossed a slice of bread into the water. The problem was, it floated. She scrunched up another piece and threw *it* into the water. That one sank.

But why?

"What's the difference between a bread slice and a bread ball?" Ms. Frizzle asked us.

"Well, the ball is a lot smaller than the slice," Keesha said.

Wanda got excited. "So you can take something that floats and crumple it up to make it sink?"

"Now you're thinking sinking," Ms. Frizzle said. "Class, prepare to crumple!"

Could I be excused from
being crumpled?

If one of us gets
crumpled, we all do!





Luckily, our bus-boat was equipped for crumplization. Liz pushed the crumple-zone buttons, and each corner of the bus-boat scrunched up. Soon we were starting to sink.

Carlos was confused. "If we weigh the same, how does being smaller make us sink?"

"Maybe it's because the less water we push out of the way, the less the water pushes us back up," Keesha explained.

Suddenly the bus-boat *really* crumpled. We were packed like sardines in a can!



We're going up!

Why didn't we
stay sunk?

Without Wanda,
we're lighter!

Down, down, down we went. Just before we hit bottom, Wanda put on her face mask. Before we could ask what she was doing, Wanda disappeared through the floor hatch.

"Wan-daaa," we called.

The bus-boat started to rise in the water. Without Wanda's extra weight, we couldn't stay on the bottom! We needed her back.

Wanda didn't hear us calling to her. She was too busy looking for the monster. Suddenly, something grabbed her leg! Wanda was stuck!

"Ahhhhh!" Wanda yelled.

We had to get back to the bottom of the lake so we could save her.

"We have to get smaller so we can sink," Ralphie said.

Ms. Frizzle shook her head. "I'm afraid we can't do that, Ralphie. The crumple control's jammed."

We were in big trouble.

We have to get
back down there!

I've got that sinking
feeling again.

You mean that
floating feeling.



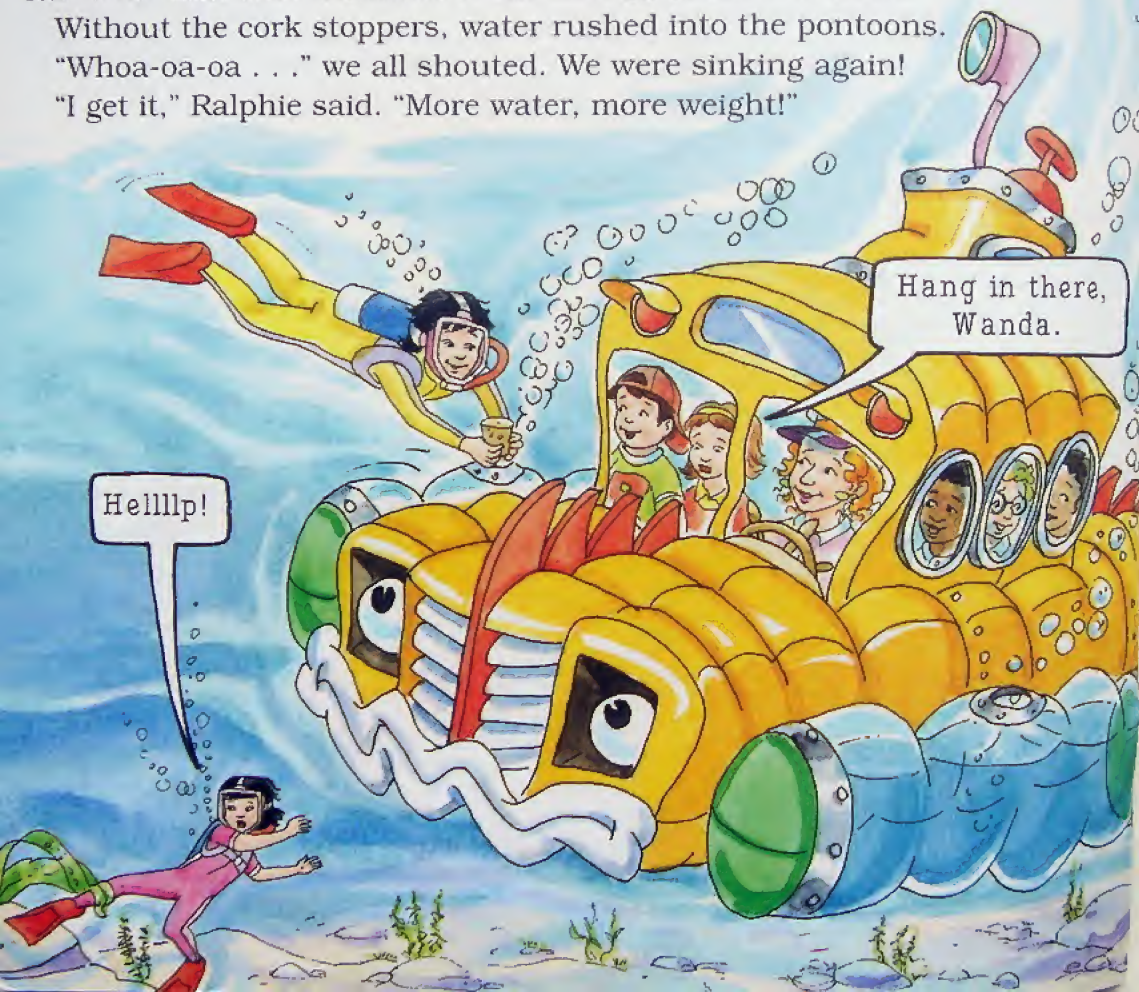
"I know!" Carlos said. He put on his diving gear and dropped through the floor hatch.


A second later, we heard a big *BLUB BLUB!* Carlos had pulled the corks out of our pontoons. The pontoons were big plastic containers full of air that were attached to the bottom of the bus-boat.

Without the cork stoppers, water rushed into the pontoons.

"Whoa-oa-oa . . ." we all shouted. We were sinking again!

"I get it," Ralphie said. "More water, more weight!"





Its nose just floated away!

Meanwhile, Wanda was still struggling — when suddenly she came face-to-face with the monster!

“All right, you asked for it,” Wanda said. She pulled her arm back. *WHAM!* She gave the monster her best right-hand punch . . . and its nose fell off!



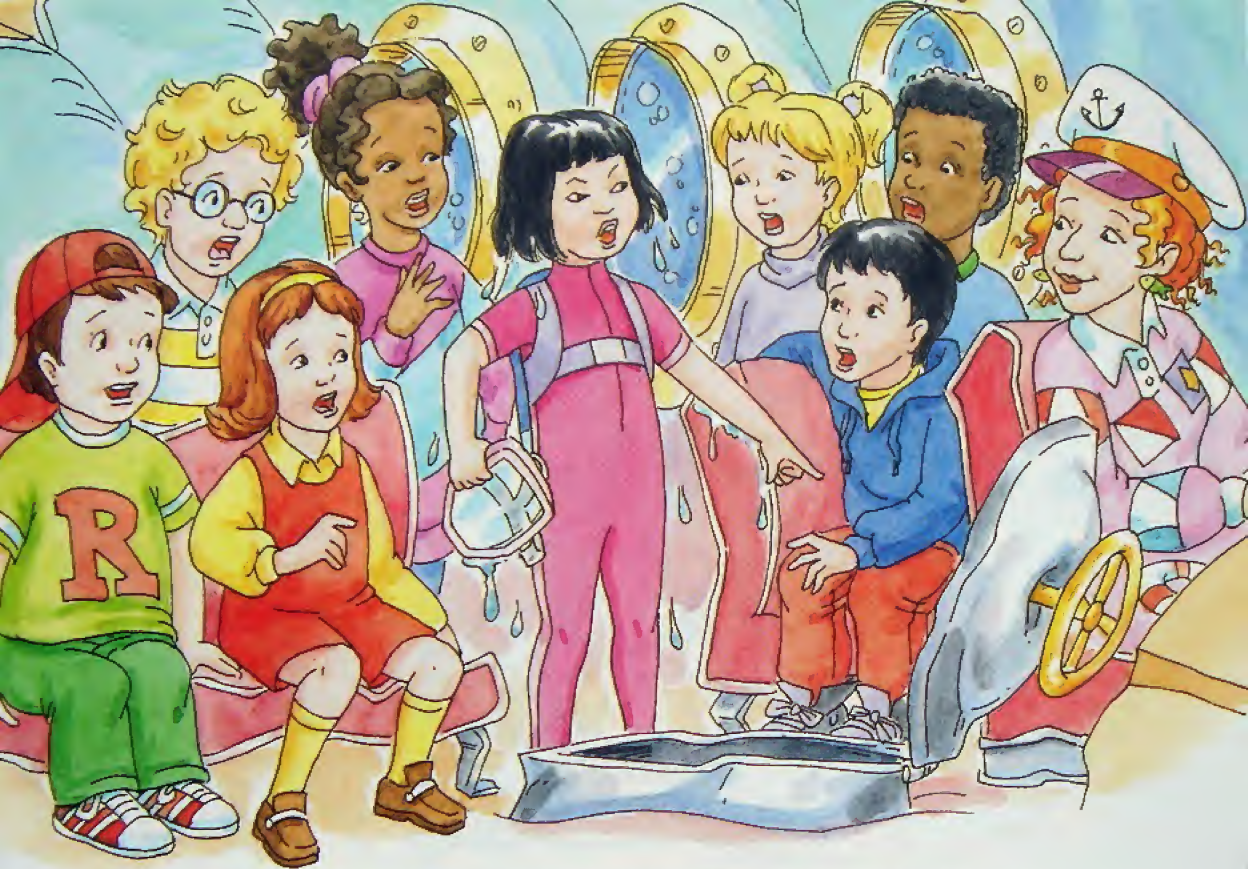
Wanda gasped. "There is no monster! It's all just pretend!"

Just then Gerri Poveri drove up in her diving sled. "And I get to reveal it all on *In Your Face!*" she said excitedly.

When Wanda saw Gerri, she figured out what had happened. Gerri had made up the whole monster story to get people to watch her show! "You won't get away with it!" Wanda told Gerri.

"Nobody will believe *you*," Gerri said. "You're a kid!"

That made Wanda *really* angry. "We'll see about that," she said. And she swam away as fast as she could.



Back on the bus-boat, the rest of us were confused — what was going on? And where was Wanda?

Then Tim spotted her. "There she is!" he shouted.

Sure enough, Wanda was swimming toward us. We all sighed in relief.

"What happened to the monster?" Carlos asked.

"The monster's a fake," Wanda said in disgust. "The *real* monster is Gerri Poveri. She was trying to get people to watch her show!"



It looks as if we're sunk for good!

"We have to get to the surface to stop her!" Wanda said.
"The truth must be told!"

Everyone looked worried. We didn't know how we'd be able to make it up to the top before Gerri went on television.

"The truth is the pontoons are completely filled with water. We're too heavy for our size!" Keesha said.

Just when we started to panic, Arnold came up with an idea. "If the water in the pontoons weighs us down," he said, "we could push that water out with something lighter."

Ms. Frizzle smiled. "And what is a lot lighter than water?" she asked us.

"Air!" we all said together.

The solution was simple. If we filled the pontoons with air again, the air would push the heavy water out and the bus-boat would be light enough to float.





A few minutes later, we put our plan into action. Carlos plugged up the holes on top of the pontoons, so the air wouldn't escape. Then we put air hoses through the holes on the bottom.

"Pumpers, start your pumps," Ms. Frizzle called.

On board, Arnold and Dorothy Ann started pumping. Air bubbles streamed from the air hoses. Soon air pockets appeared at the top of the pontoons. The air on top pushed the water out. *Whoosh!* The bus-boat started to rise. Our plan was working!

We all swam back into the bus-boat.

"Now that we're lighter, the water pushes up on us harder than our weight pushes down," Ms. Frizzle told us.

But we weren't rising for very long. Keesha looked through the glass bottom of the bus-boat. "The corks are gone and the air is escaping!" she exclaimed. Someone had pulled out the corks. And we had a good idea who it was — Gerri Poveri.



Just then, we saw Gerri Poveri's fake monster. It was rising toward the surface! Gerri was going to lie to her audience and say that *she* had found the monster. But she was the one who had put it there in the first place!

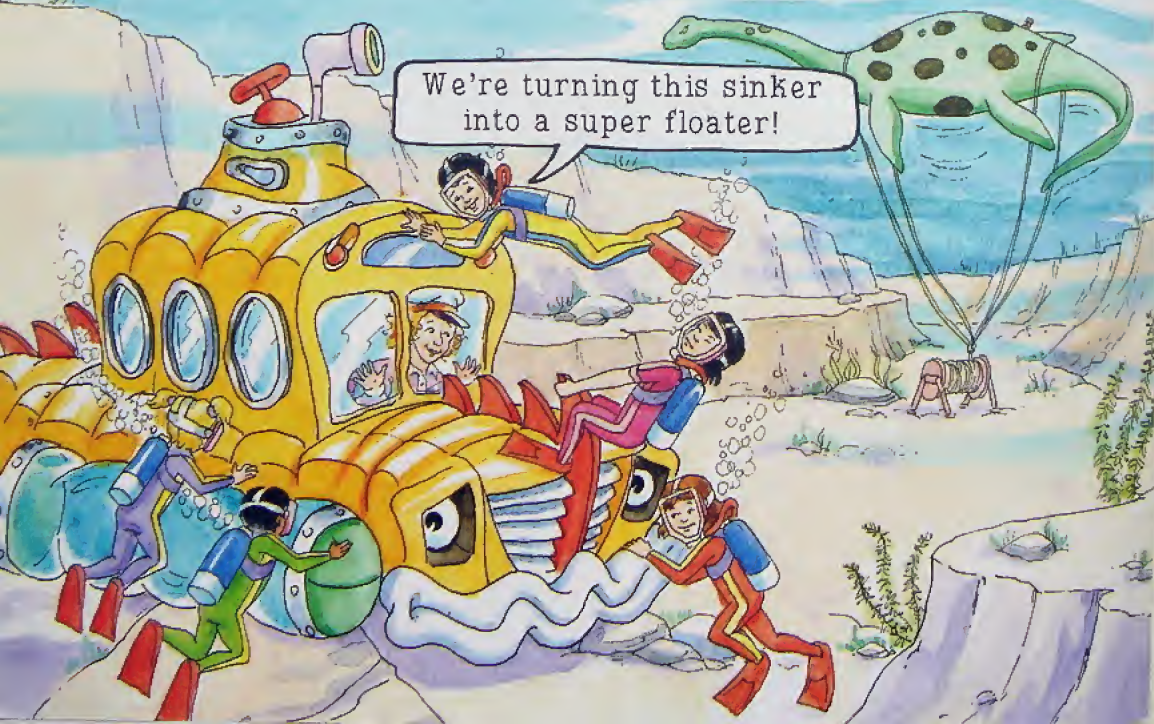
We had to float the boat, and fast.

"How about getting bigger?" Phoebe suggested. "Remember my bread slice? When it was big, it floated!"

"So if we uncrumple the bus, we'll get bigger and the water will push back more — so we'll float!" Dorothy Ann said.

"Let's do it!" shouted Keesha. We all dived into the water.

We got to work. Bit by bit, we pushed and pulled the bus-boat back to its normal size. And we started to rise!





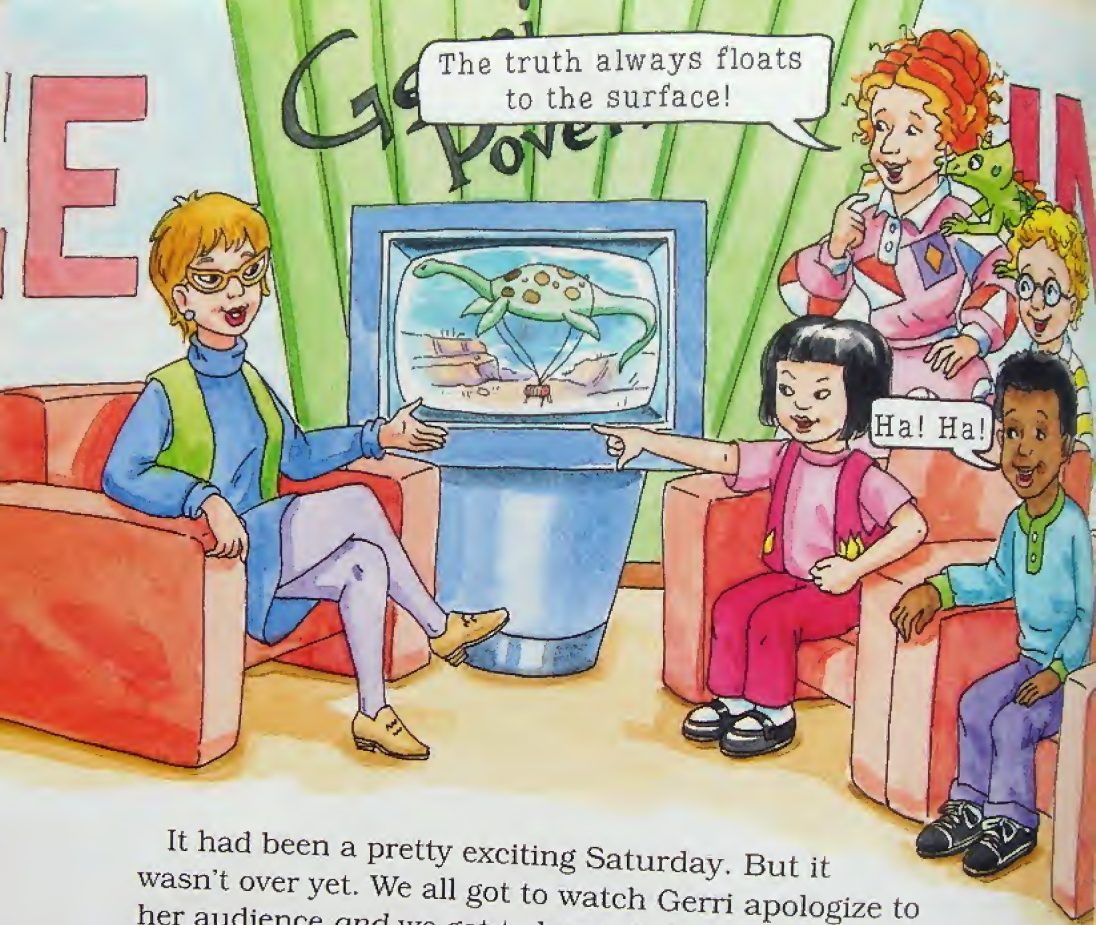
Just as we started to pick up speed, Wanda grabbed hold of Tim. "Come on, Tim," she said. "I have an idea. And bring the monster-cam." And off they swam.

A second later, the bus-boat and the monster burst out of the lake — right underneath Gerri Poveri!

"My story!" Gerri wailed as she fell into the lake with a splash.

Wanda popped out of the water. "*Our* story, you mean," she said with a grin.

She stuck a pin into the monster. *FSSSSTTT!* It shot upward, doing a wriggly dance as the air whooshed out. It landed on the lake with a splat. And Tim got the whole thing on videotape!



It had been a pretty exciting Saturday. But it wasn't over yet. We all got to watch Gerri apologize to her audience *and* we got to be on *In Your Face*!

"How did you get the monster to the surface?" Gerri wanted to know.

"The monster was big and light enough to float," Wanda said. "All we had to do was cut it loose. And you know the rest."

She grinned at the camera. "Your very own monster ended up in *your face*!"

Letters from Our Readers:

Dear Editor,
I think Wanda was very brave when she met the monster. She really got to the bottom of the story!

Signed,
An Underwater Admirer



Dear Editor,
I admire Phoebe's attempt to feed the monster. But how did she know it liked bananas or peanut butter and jelly? My monster is a very picky eater.

Signed,
Just Kidding



Dear Editor,
I ride on a school bus almost every day, and it never turns into a bus-boat, grows pontoons, or crumples. And by the way, it would be impossible for the kids to *uncrumple* it. That would take superhuman strength!

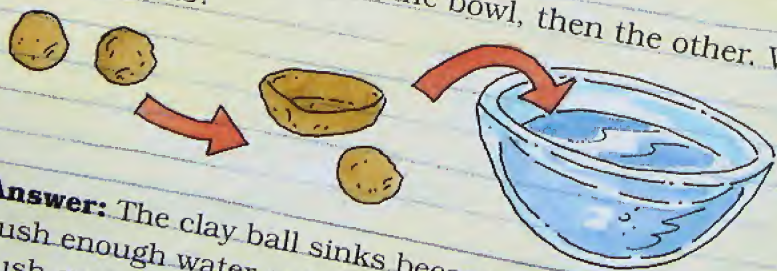
Your friend,
I Don't Believe It

From the desk of Ms. Frizzle

An Experiment for Parents, Teachers, and Kids

Phoebe discovered that a piece of bread floats, but the same piece of bread sinks if it is scrunched into a ball. Can you think of a way to make a lump of clay float? Try this experiment:

1. Make two balls of clay about the size of a golf ball.
2. Take one of the balls and flatten it out. Then pinch up the sides, making a little boat. Leave the other ball as it is.
3. Fill a large bowl with water.
4. First put one ball into the bowl, then the other. Which one floats?



Answer: The clay ball sinks because the ball shape can't push enough water out of the way. The boat shape can push enough water out of the way, and the water pushes up hard enough so it floats.